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SOURCE Szabad Nep.

HUNGARIANS ORGANIZE SOCIETY
FOR PROPAGATION OF SOCIAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Comment: This report summarizes an article on the establishment in Hungary of a mass organization similar to the All-Union Society for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge founded 5 years ago in the USSR. Although the article makes no specific statement to that effect, it is worded in such a way as to suggest that the new society will absorb or replace certain old, traditional Hungarian societies.

On 25 February 1953, in response to the suggestion of the Hungarian Academy of Science, leading Hungarian intellectuals met in the assembly hall of the Hungarian Academy of Science to discuss the founding of the Tarsadalom es Termeszettudomanyi Ismeretterjeszto Tarsulat (Society for the Propagation of Knowledge of Social and Natural Sciences). Present at the session were Arpad Kiss, Minister of Light Industry; Gergely Szabo, Minister of Chemical Industry; and Lajos Szijarto, Minister of Building.

At the table with the chairman were seated the following Hungarian and Soviet notables: Ivan Pavlovich Bardin, Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences USSR; Istvan Ruzsnyak, President of the Hungarian Academy of Science; Tibor Ercey-Gruz, Minister of Higher Education; Jozsef Darvas, Minister of Public Education; Erzsebet Andics; Bela Fogarasi; Academician Gyoze Mihailich, university professor; Sandor Nogradi, First Deputy Minister of Defense; Academician Kurt Sedlmayr; Erno Mihalyfi, Deputy Minister of Culture; Gyula Hevesi; Imre Toro; Academician Elemer Vadasz, university professor; and Margit Ladomerszky, actress.

After the meeting was called to order by the chairman, Istvan Ruzsnyak, the purposes of the new society were discussed by Academician Imre Toro, Kosuth Prize winner and director of the Szovet es Fejlodestani Intezet (Institute of Histology and Evolution). Participants in the discussion period included: Jozsef Darvas; Laszlo Boka, LL.D., Dean of the Philosophy Department of the Budapest University of Science; Academician Gyula Hevesi; Jozsef Schandl, university

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professor; Ferenc Kovacs, Professor of Medicine; Gyula Pernesz, teacher at the intermediate school at Gyor; Laszlo Fogaras, chief engineer; Academician Lajos Janossy, Kossuth Prize winner; Academician Gabor Fodor, Rector of Szeged University; and Academician Zoltan Csuros.

The purpose of the new society will be to develop the cultured, well-educated type of human being required in an expanding and progressive nation, by disseminating knowledge on a wide scale and combating superstition, prejudice, and reactionary attitudes.

The organization and activity of the new society will resemble the All-Union Society for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge, which was established 5 years ago in the USSR under the leadership of Academician Oparin. The majority of Soviet intellectuals belong to this society, which has given millions of lectures throughout the USSR. Similar societies have already been formed in Rumania, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, and one will be formed in China soon.

Political and scientific knowledge has been disseminated in Hungary for several years; nearly 100,000 lectures were given in 1952 with the aid of the 100-year-old Termesztudomanyi Tarsulat (Society of Natural Science), the Irodalomtortenetel Tarsasag (Society of the History of Literature), and the Tortenelmi Tarsulat (Historical Society). However, Hungary needs a unified mass organization under unified leadership to train and educate the people in every field of art, science, and literature. The new society will fill this need, and the entire Hungarian intelligentsia is called upon to give its support to the endeavor.

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